

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, EFIN, CB

SUBJ: NEW KHMER EXIT PERMIT PROCEDURES

REF: PHNOM PENH 2101 (LIMDIS)

1. SUMMARY. ON FEBRUARY 7 THE GKR PUBLISHED A FEBRUARY 1 DECREE OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR SETTING FORTH A NEW SCHEDULE OF FEES AND PROCEDURES FOR SECURING OF EXIT PERMITS BY KHMERS WISHING TO TRAVEL ABROAD. MOST OF THE FEES ARE TO BE PAID INTO A SPECIAL FUND FOR ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES AND WAR VICTIMS. END SUMMARY.

2. FEFTEL OUTLINED A SERIES OF REFORM MEASURES WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE LONG BORET CABINET. THE FIRST TO BE PUBLISHED (MENTIONED IN PARA 8 REFTTEL) IS A DECREE SEEKING TO DO AWAY WITH UNCONSCIONABLE GRAFT IN THE ISSUE OF EXIT VISAS BY THE INTERIOR MINISTRY.

3. UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM, VISA FEES WILL GENERALLY BE PAID INTO A FONDS SPECIAL D'ASSISTANCE AUX REFUGEES ET VICTIMES DE GUERRE (FOSAR). SOME OF THE CATEGORIES MUST FURNISH OTHER CERTIFICATES TO BE ESTABLISHMENT ENTITLEMENT.

4. PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESSMEN, TRADERS, EXPORT-
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IMPORT FIRMS AND TECHNICAL PERSONNEL MUST INCLUDE A

CERTIFICATE OF MINFINANCE ATTESTING THAT THEIR FIRMS HAVE PAID TAXES ON BUSINESS TURNOVER OF AT LEAST 1 MILLION RIELS (\$600) TO SHOW THAT THEIR BUSINESS IS OF SUFFICIENT BENEFIT TO COUNTRY. IF EXPORTERS, CERTIFICATE MUST STATE THEY HAVE REPATRIATED AT LEAST \$200,000 (US) TO COUNTRY; THEN THEY PAY INTO FOSAR \$90 FOR TRIP IN ASIA, \$120 FOR TRIP ELSEWHERE.

5. PERSONS SEEKING MEDICACAL CARE ABROAD MUST HAVE A CERTIFICATE OF A BOARD OF MEDICAL EXPERTS, THROUGH MINISTRY OF HEALTH, THAT TRIP IS INDISPENSABLE, AND THEN PAY \$90 TO FOSAR. THEY CAN BE ACCOMPANIED BY NOT MORE THAN TWO MEMBERS OF FAMILY (NOT OF DRAFT AGE) FOR \$180 EACH TO FOSAR.

6. FAMILY VISITS TO ILL SPOUSES OR CHILDREN ABROAD REQUIRE A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF THE FOREIGN DOCTOR ATTESTED TO BY A KHMER EMBASSYABROAD,AND \$120 TO FOASAR. IF THE FAMILY VISIT IS FOR OTHER THAN MEDICAL REASONS, THE PAYMENT TO FOSAR IS \$240 FOR ASIA, \$300 FOR OTHER COUNTRIES.

7. KHMER WIVES OF FOREIGN HUSBANDS AND ACCOMPANYING CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS, CAN PAY \$90 PER VISA TO FOSAR. KHMER SPOUSES OF GKR EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED ABROAD MAY JOIN THEIR SPOUSE FOR \$120 PLUS \$90 FOR EACH CHILD. DOMESTIC SERVANTS FOR KHMER DIPLOMATS ARE ALLOWED, AT NO MORE THAN TWO PER CHIEF OF MISSION AND COUNSELOR, OR ONE FOR OTHER DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL, FOR \$120 APIECE FOR ASIA, \$180 APIECE FOR OTHER COUNTRIES.

8. BUDDHIST MONKS AND SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS ARE EXEMPT FROM THE VISA FEES. THE PARENTS OF SECONDARY AND PRIMARY STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS NOT ON SCHOLARSHIP MUST PAY \$120 APIECE TO FONDS REPUBLICAIN POUR LES ETUDIANTS A L'ETRANGER (FREE). POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE EXEMPT FROM THE LAST.

9. FINALLY, FOR FOREIGNERS RESIDENT IN THE KHMER REPUBLIC THE ABOVE SCHEDULE OF FEES IS DOUBLED. THEY DO NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE TO PRODUCE EVIDENCE OF DRAFT EXEMPTION.

10. COMMENT: THOUGH AT FIRST GLANCE THESE FEES MAY SEEM A BIT STEEP, THEY ARE LESS THAN BRIBES EXACTED RECENTLY BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR FOR EXIT VISAS, AND IN THIS CASE THEY ARE GOING TO A CERTIFIABLY WORTHWHILE CAUSE. NO DOUBT THERE WILL BE SOME TRAFFICKING IN OTHER REQUIRED CERTIFICATES AND SOME PAYMENTS ARE

LIKELY TO BE EXACTED FOR EXPEDITIOUS PROCESSING OF
APPLICATIONS, BUT THIS IS STILL CAMBODIA. AT LEAST
THE GKR HAS TAKEN A STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF ATTACKING
ONE OF THE MOST WIDELY PUBLICIZED AREAS OF GOVERNMENTAL
CORRUPTION.
DEAN

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